

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 2213

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PINT, IR

SUBJ: NEW IRANIAN POLITICAL PARTY

REF: TEHRAN 2069

1. DURING AUDIENCE ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 8, SHAH MENTIONED WITH OBVIOUS PLEASURE THAT "EVERYONE" APPEARED TO BE JOINING THE NEW IRANIAN RESURGENCE (RENAISSANCE) PARTY. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN BRIEFLY WHY HE HAD MADE THIS POLITICAL CHANGE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS MORE DEMOCRATIC TO HAVE TWO PARTIES, BUT THAT IN RECENT TIMES HE HAD NOTED THAT THE MORDOM PARTY, WHICH WAS IN OPPOSITION, WAS LOSING OUT ACROSS THE BOARD BECAUSE THE IRAN NOVIN PARTY WAS ABLE TO CAPITALIZE ON "MY REFORMS". IN OTHER WORDS, IT WOULD GET THE BENEFITS OF THE SHAH'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE FORM OF SUPPORT AND ULTIMATELY VOTES. THE SHAH INDICATED THAT IT LOOKED AS THOUGH MARDOM WOULD SUCCEED IN ELECTING ALMOST NO CANDIDATES IN THE NEXT ELECTION. FOR THIS REASON, HE COMMENTED, THE MARDOM PARTY HAD NOWHERE TO GO AND IT WAS NOT RIGHT THAT THESE LOYAL CITIZENS SHOULD LOSE OUT ENTIRELY AND NOT BE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, HE DECIDED TO CONSOLIDATE EVERYONE INTO ONE PARTY THEREBY MOBILIZING THE COUNTRY IN A NATIONAL EFFORT TO ACCOMPLISH HIS AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOALS. HE POINTED OUT THAT WITHIN THE PARTY PEOPLE WILL COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER IN THE HOPE THAT THE MORE COMPETENT ONES WILL BE ELECTED IN THE END. CONSIDERING THAT EVERYONE IN THE

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PARTY WILL ESPOUSE THE PARTY'S PHILOSOPHY, THIS COMPETITION

SHOULD BE HEALTHY AND SHOULD ENCOURAGE A CONCEPT OF "MAY THE BEST MAN WIN", HE EXPLAINED.

2. IN REFERRING TO THE NEW PARTY, THE SHAH FIRST USED THE ENGLISH WORD "RESURGENCE", THEN HE TOYED AROUND WITH THE FRENCH WORD "RENAISSANCE". HE COMMENTED THAT DURING HIS LONG SESSION WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN IN ALGIERS, THEY WERE JOKING AT ONE POINT ABOUT HAVING TWO THINGS IN COMMON: (1) A COMMON POLICY ON OIL PRICES, AND (2) A NATIONAL PARTY NAME OF WHICH WAS "RENAISSANCE". SADDAM HUSSEIN AGREED, THEN POINTED OUT TO THE SHAH THAT "BA'ATH" NOT ONLY MEANS RENAISSANCE BUT ALSO EMBODIES THE CONCEPT THAT IT SHOULD GATHER ALL ARABS WITHIN ITS SCOPE. THE SHAH HAD A WRY LOOK IN HIS FACE WHEN HE QUOTED THIS OBSERVATION.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR PARSONS TOLD ME ON MARCH 7 OF A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA ABOUT THE NEW PARTY. IT JIBES OBVIOUSLY WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE.
HELMS

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